



FY2011 (7/1/10 – 6/30/11) Annual Work Plan Benton Conservation District

For More Information Contact: Mark Nielson, 509-786-1923 ext 3, mark-nielson@conservewa.net



Mission of the Benton Conservation District

- The Mission of the Benton Conservation District is to facilitate responsible stewardship of the land and resources for the residents of Benton County through the application and administration of various volunteer and cooperative partnership programs using all available funding resources.*

Natural Resource Priorities:

- Air Quality – By January 2013, reduce wind erosion and improve air quality in Benton County through the conservation treatment on 50% of the critical eroding areas.*
- Water Quality – By January 2013, the water quality of the river and streams in Benton County will have shown continual improvement in terms of DOE evaluation standards.*
- Education - By January 2013, there will be three educational programs offered as part of the public education process to enhance learning about natural resource conservation in Benton County.*
- District Operations - By January 2013, establish local funding mechanisms, which will create a stable funding. Work with RC&D to establish additional partnerships to secure additional funding.*
- Wildlife Habitat - By January 2013, there will be noticeable and demonstrable acreage preserved and/or improved in available fish and wildlife habitat within the District.*

Program Area: Air Quality

Goal(s): *By January 2013, reduce wind erosion and improve air quality in Benton County through the conservation treatment on 50% of the critical eroding areas.*

Funding Source(s): *Numerous (See Notes Column)*

Activities for FY2011	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Continue implementation of field borders program on critical areas of SR 221	7/10 – 6/11	Erin / Mark	2	\$500	WSCC / Assessment
Develop a Partnership with WSU on collecting & measuring soil erosion after wind storms along SR 221	7/10 – 6/11	Erin	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding

Convert the WeedSeeker for use on the irrigated farms or sell the equipment.	7/10 – 6/11	Erin	15	\$3,600	Assessment WSCC
Implement the use of the large straw bale spreader in the Horse Heaven Hills	7/10 – 6/11	Erin	2	\$500	Assessment
Look for funding to implement the use of No-till Drills in the Horse Heaven Hills	7/10 – 6/11	Erin	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Seek additional funding to implement the Firewise Program in Benton County.	7/10 – 6/11	Erin	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding

Program Area: *Water Quality*

Goal(s): *By 2013, the water quality of the river and streams in Benton County will have shown continual improvement in terms of DOE evaluation standards.*

Funding Source(s): *Numerous (See Notes Column)*

Activities for FY2011	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Work to secure funding to monitor and improve the water quality in the streams and rivers that are of concern.	7/10 – 6/11	All Staff	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Implement the District's Xeriscaping program.	7/10 – 6/11	Heather/Erin	65	\$20,000	WSCC / Seeking Funding
Implement the District's Small Livestock Producers program.	7/10 – 6/11	Erin	75	\$15,000	WSCC
Implement Commercial Livestock Nutrient Management Program.	7/10 – 6/11	Erin	30	\$5,500	WSCC
Seek funding for urban irrigation water management program.	7/10 – 6/11	Mark / Heather / Erin	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Seek funding to develop a program to improve water use efficiency	7/10 - 6/11	Mark / Heather /	10	\$2,500	Assessment

for agricultural irrigators. (Example: Real Time Irrigation Water Management).		Erin			/ Seek Funding
Implement water intake screening program for State Recreation and Conservation Grant	7/10-12/11	Marcie	121	\$115,000	RCO Assessment
Implement PHISH Project.	7/10-12/10	Marcie	91	\$51,000	NFWF Assessment
Implement SWIM Project.	7/10-12/10	Marcie	67	\$25,000	NFWF Assessment
Implement Lower Yakima River Inventory and Improvement project for Salmon Recovery Funding Board grant.	7/10-12/10	Marcie	17	\$5,000	SRFB Assessment
Seek funding for variable speed drives in the irrigated acres of Benton County.	7/10 - 6/11	Erin / Heather	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Seek additional funding for the installation of fish screens, livestock fencing, riparian buffers and shoreline stabilization projects.	7/10 - 6/11	Marcie	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Partner with the Benton County Weed Board to enhance weed control	7/10 - 6/11	Staff	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Seek funding to purchase pasture aerator.	7/10 - 6/11	Heather / Erin	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Investigate if there is a need to compost grape waste from local wineries and if so seek funding to develop a program.	7/10 - 6/11	Heather / Erin	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding

Program Area: *Education*

Goal(s): *By January 2013, there will be three educational programs offered as part of the public education process to enhance learning about natural resource conservation in Benton County.*

Funding Source(s): *Numerous (See Notes Column)*

Activities for FY2011	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
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Continue to implement "Salmon in the Classroom" program in Benton and South Yakima Counties.	7/10 - 6/11	Rachel	180	\$45,600	WSSC Assessment Grants
Implement successful programs utilized by other agencies (Water on Wheels / Wheat Week – FCD MOU)	7/10 - 6/11	Kara	45	\$5,400	WWC
Build understanding between urban youth and rural resource providers	7/10 - 6/11	Rachel	2	\$500	Seeking Funding
Maintain web site as a means of providing an electronic educational tool	7/10 - 6/11	Heather / Rachel	2	\$500	Assessment
BCD will provide resources for teachers in the district by networking with other organizations and agencies	7/10 - 6/11	Rachel	2	\$500	Assessment
Promote Farmland Preservation	7/10 – 6/11	Staff	2	\$500	Seeking Funding

Program Area: *District Operations*

Goal(s): *By January 2013, establish local funding mechanisms, which will create a stable funding. Work with RC&D to establish additional partnerships to secure additional funding.*

Funding Source(s): *Numerous (See Notes Column)*

Activities for FY2011	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Keep County Commissioners apprised of activities funded through assessment funds	7/10 – 6/11	Mark / Heather / Board	2	\$500	Assessment
Increase expertise in accounting procedures and software.	7/10 - 6/11	Mark / Heather / Bookkeeper	4	\$1,000	WSSC / Assessment
Administer funds, prepare required reports, maintain financial records, manage district activities and personnel.	7/10 - 6/11	Mark / Heather / Bookkeeper	325	\$72,000	Grants / Assessment

Continue to update the District's capital asset list.	7/10 - 6/11	Heather	1	\$280	Assessment
Continue to Implement marketing strategy for the conservation district and district programs	7/10 - 6/11	Heather	4	\$1,000	Assessment
Continue working with RC&D to develop grants for District programs	7/10 - 6/11	Staff / Board	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding

Program Area: *Wildlife Habitat*

Goal(s): By January 2013, there will be noticeable and demonstrable acreage preserved and/or improved in available fish and wildlife habitat within the District.

Funding Source(s): *Numerous (See Notes Column)*

Activities for FY2011	Target Dates	Person Responsible	Time (Days) Required	Estimated Funding	Notes
Look for funding opportunities to secure and enhance wildlife habitat	7/10 - 6/11	Staff / Board	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding
Look for funding to assist the county in building the Walt Clore path	7/10 - 6/11	Staff / Board	4	\$1,000	Seeking Funding

Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices